



DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY  
MEDICAL TREATMENT FACILITY  
US NAVAL HOSPITAL SHIP MERCY (T-AH 19)  
FPO AP 96672-4090

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July 22, 2006

Naval Postgraduate School  
1 University Circle  
Monterey, CA 93943-5000  
ATTN: Office of the President

SUBJ: LETTER OF APPRECIATION ICO BRIAN STECKLER

Dear Sir,

It gives me great pleasure to communicate with you, and commend Dr. Steckler's dedicated work during his time aboard USNS MERCY (T-AH 19) from May through June 2006. As the leader of the Hastily Formed Network (HFN) research project, he collaborated with MERCY'S communications department to demonstrate the full utility and practicality of the Broadband Global Area Network (BGAN) unit ashore.

This very portable (laptop size) Inmarsat based service provided us remote internet access in areas where no other effective communication was possible for the ship. It was truly mission enabling, and allowed us the freedom to conduct operations in a robust and flexible manner. HFN provided us access to a real time chat program and other services that allowed for the safe deployment of nurses and doctors to humanitarian outreach locations ashore. The BGAN gave us added confidence by our linking shipboard operations with the ashore element.

Since Brian's departure, we relied heavily on this same communications system to enhance our operations in Bangladesh. The HFN again proved itself invaluable to our operations. More importantly, Dr. Steckler established the training, equipment and contracting requirements necessary to utilize the system independent of the original demonstration project.

Please give my best to the team of individuals who worked to put this project together. I know many wanted to deploy with MERCY if schedules would have allowed. On behalf of the entire MERCY crew, please commend Dr. Steckler for his selfless dedication to the success of our mission, and pass on to all our heartfelt gratitude.

All the best,

JOSEPH L. MOORE, M.D.  
Captain, Medical Corps, U.S. Navy  
Commanding Officer  
Medical Treatment Facility  
USNS MERCY (T-AH 19)